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## NOTES AND ABSTRACTS

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### ANTHROPOLOGY—PSYCHOLOGY—LEGAL-MEDICINE

**Psychoanalysis of the Radical Type.**—For some time I have been interested in the ever-increasing group of cases whom I have termed “86 percenters.” It is a group of boys and girls with an intelligence quotient of from 83 to 88 per cent, who test too high to be classified as borderline cases and not high enough to be regarded as having normal intelligence. They are dull; and their dullness exhibits itself most obviously in their lack of good judgment.

This girl was brought into the Juvenile Detention Home, where our office is located, at the request of her mother, who complained that Mary was staying out late nights, attending radical meetings, and had become incorrigible, and the mother was unable to control her. Her case is an interesting one for many reasons. She is only one of a great mass of young people who are attracted to various radical, economic or religious movements in order to have a chance to express themselves. It is quite conceivable that the 86 percenters in these organizations are the ones who are in a large measure responsible for some of the extremist methods which are so often employed, and which exhibit such an obvious lack of judgment and foresight. It would be interesting to discover the percentage of these dull types in these organizations and societies and the effect on them of brilliant leadership, altruistic ideals and general criticism of society.

The other cases of this group vary greatly in their delinquencies and social reactions, but at the basis of it is the mental limitation.

Chronological age, 18 or 19. Mental, 13 years 2 months. Intelligence quotient, 83 plus. Classification: rather dull, normal.

Mary is a personally unattractive girl who has felt the thrill of recognition in certain radical groups, where she was found to possess a great deal of energy, and hence put on committees and made to feel as if she really were someone quite important. Being a young, emotional and ambitious girl, she has been caught in the whirlwind of radicalism, incited by what she believes to be the brilliance of the leaders, impressed by the injustice done to the working people, and fascinated by phrases, words, ideals and propaganda which she has heard. Not being clever or brilliant herself, she has caught up these phrases and uses them without very deep reflection as to their content. She began to feel as if the whole radical movement was dependent upon her committee meetings, etc., and rushed here and there to lectures, meetings, campaigning, and engaging in all sorts of routine propaganda work. She has very little initiative or originality, and hence does very well as a tool.

Her reasoning is illogical and certainly not consecutive. Her judgment is rather poor. She lacks analytical ability and self-insight. She is ambitious to do something. In the work-a-day world she earns \$12.00 a week as a filing clerk. Certainly there was no room for her ambition to be stimulated there. At home she is one of a very large family, next to the youngest, with older married brothers and sisters who want to dictate about her conduct. She has begun to have a taste of independence and personal revolt against all institutions, including her family, and it is not surprising that her mother has

found her incorrigible. She feels that an injustice has been done to her at home and that they do not understand her, nor are they at all sympathetic toward her ideas. Her idea of radical principles is certainly very limited. She has memorized a few definitions, but attaches almost equal importance to insignificant things. Some of the definitions which she gave are rather interesting. Rather than say that she does not know a thing she will make a very wide guess.

"Puddle is a pan used for cooking."

"Tolerate means to destroy."

"War is a curse."

"Hysterics has something to do with history."

When she does not know what a word means she tries to cover up her ignorance by long-sounding words. When asked to make four triangles out of one, she says she has never had square root, algebra or geometry.

Gives the difference between "evolution" and "revolution" very well, having been coached in this at her radical meetings. "Revolution is a sudden, immediate change by force." "Evolution is a gradual change." "Laziness is a disease; idleness is a manufactured habit." "Character is one's natural instinct; reputation is the way he is known."

She gives as fundamentals of the Socialist platform "Collective ownership of public utilities," that the Socialists do not believe in charity. Under a Socialist regime she says there will be no policemen, lawyers or professional people of any kind. Later she admits that she is rather confused on this point and that probably that is part of the I. W. W. propaganda. She thrilled at the name of many of the well-known radicals. She is the type who would worship at the shrine of a hero, drink in his every word and then try to repeat it in a hodge-podge of phrases and mixed ideas.

The principal trouble with Mary is that her foundation is exceedingly shaky. She has had a grammar school education, but can hardly do fifth grade arithmetic; her mind is untrained to grapple with the economic problems in which she is interesting herself. As a result, she makes silly statements and behaves in a rather bravado manner, enjoying somewhat to play with the idea that in being in the Juvenile Home she is more or less a martyr to her cause. She is amenable, however, to reasoning. She states that she believes now that the important thing to do is to get an education; she fully realizes that she can do very little for the movement until she becomes more intelligent and says she is perfectly willing to take the advice of the court and do whatever they think best.

She is responsive to interest and sympathy, and it would not be a very difficult matter to steer her from what may prove to be a rather dangerous course into being a useful young woman. She will never be a leader, because she has not the innate ability, but she would be a faithful and energetic worker for any cause to which she might be won.—Sadie R. Myers, Ass't. Director, Juvenile Psychopathic Institute, Chicago.

**The Feeble-Minded in a Rural County of Ohio.**—The Ohio Board of Administration is issuing a very valuable set of bulletins which are not merely reports on the management of institutions, but scientific studies of conditions in the state that have to be met by those who are working for public welfare.